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22 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, WH/4/Security

VIA : Chief, WH/4/Support

SUBJECT : Passports of Cubans

1. Mr. Devine, of the State Department, called on 22 June and referred to previous discussions with members of WH Division and of WH/4 concerning Miro Cardona's request for some 400 passports of Cubans as well as other personal documents. It was recalled that Miro Cardona and Tony Varona, among others in the Council, had raised this question in late April and early May with Mr. Goodwin and later with Morales Carrion. At that time it was understood that these passports and documents were collected from volunteers for the invasion forces in Florida and held possibly by the FRD or its "associates" under an agreement that said passports and documents would be turned over to no one other than the person concerned or his heirs. It was also recalled by Mr. Devine that the answer to the request of the Council for these documents was that any individual who wanted his documents should go to the entity to which he gave it and make application. It was also passed to the Council that the passports were in the Florida area in custody and were immediately available to the individual or his heirs. For a time this seemed to suffice or, at any rate, the inquiries seemed to stop.

2. Apparently with Miro Cardona's knowledge a few days ago a circular was prepared by some Cuban organization and sent to all people in the Cuban community in Miami who might be interested in documents or passports, stating that anyone wanting to recover said documents should apply to Mr. Hurowitz on the Cuban desk in the Department of State. Mr. Hurowitz received in the last day or two some thirty letters requesting documents of one individual or another and eventually decided to acknowledge them with a form letter, stating that no responsibility for said documents rested with the State Department. However, the State Department would do what it could to assist in the locating of said documents. Meanwhile

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someone in State has contacted Carlos Plad on the Revolutionary Council, and has been assured that the circular which had been going around to Cubans will be stopped and Plad will apparently act as the Council's point of coordination for the recovery of said documents.

3. Mr. Devine would like to have us provide him with some more special instructions than he presently has concerning the procedures for the recovery of the documents; also, if we can short circuit this process of referral of cases to the State Department in Washington in any way, he would appreciate it.

4. Comments and suggestions from WH/4/Security are requested.

(Signed) R. E. Whedbee

R. E. Whedbee
DC/WH/4

REWhedbee:lgs (22 June 1961)

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